Japanese Bank Aid for conservation of Ajanta and Ellora Caves

2761. SHRIMATIVANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Japanese Bank proposed to fund any tourism project for the conservation of Ajanta and Ellora caves;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) Japan bank for International Cooperation has agreed in principle to provide loan assistance (Japanese Yen 7331 million) for Ajanta Ellora Conservation and Tourism Development Project Phase-II. The locations to be covered are: Ajanta, Ellora, Pithalkhora, Aurangabad, Daulatabad, Patnadevi, Lonar, Nasik, Pune, Elephanta caves, Bhaja and Bedsa, Shivneri, Malshej and Kolvan in Maharashtra State.

(c) The project is proposed to be completed by June, 2008.

Renovation of historical tourist sites

†2762. SHRI MUNAWAR HASAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any foreign loan for the renovation of historical tourists sites;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the location-wise names of those tourists sites where above loan is likely to be spent?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Infrastructure development project along the Buddhist circuit in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar was carried out by undertaking loan assistance of 7.7 billion Japanese Yen from the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund of Japan (now

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

known as Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC). The works undertaken were at Sarnath, Kushinagar, Piprahawa and Sravasti in Uttar Pradesh and Bodhgaya, Nalanda, Rajgir and Vaishali in Bihar. The project was completed at a cost of Rs. 251.05 crores in December, 1998.

Loan assistance was availed from the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund of Japan (now known as Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) for the Ajanta Ellora Conservation and Tourism Development Project (Phase I) in Maharashtra State. The Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund loan assistance was to the tune of 3745 million Japanese Yen. The project was completed at a cost of Rs. 127.50 crores in March, 2002. The places covered were Ajanta and Ellora in Maharashtra.

Japan Bank for International Cooperation has agreed in principle to provide loan assistance (Japanese Yen 7331 million) for Ajanta Ellora Conservation and Tourism Development Project Phase-II. The locations to be covered are Ajanta, Ellora, Pithalkhora, Aurangabad, Daulatabad, Patnadevi, Lonar, Nasik, Pune, Elephanta caves, Bhaja and Bedsa, Shivneri, Malshej and Kolvan in Maharashra.

Launching of Duty Free Shops

2763. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) has launched its duty free shops;

(b) if so, the Airports/Hotels where ITDC proposed to launch its duty free shops;

(c) the steps taken by ITDC in that regard; and

(d) the main objections of launching such shops?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, ITDC is presently operating 39 outlets comprising of 37 Duty Free Shops at ten airports, one Duty Paid Shop at Ashok Hotel and a Tax Free Shop at New Delhi.